

The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME"

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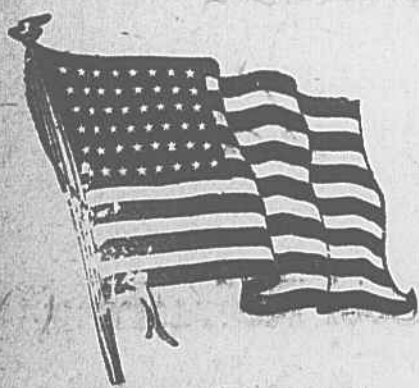
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Subscribers on our carrier routes failing to get The West Virginian any evening should call "WESTERN UNION," state the fact and give name and residence and a messenger will deliver a paper to your door at once. There is no charge to the subscriber for this service. The West Virginian plans to render to its subscribers the best newspaper delivery service possible and this is part of the plan.

FRIDAY, EVENING, JULY 13, 1917.



AN OPPORTUNITY.

IN their appeal to the President to outline what should be done regarding food control legislation the Democratic leaders have publicly confessed that in war time the Democratic machine is impotent, and unable to perform its share in the conduct of profoundly important public business.

What Mr. Wilson will do about it no one can foretell. At a time like the present his hermit habits of mind are brought into strong relief, and the best man in the street can do is to wait until the recalcitrant man in the White House is ready to speak.

But what he might do if he is so inclined is as plain as the proverbial pike staff. When they tossed their unswerving loyalty to the President's lap they tossed their responsibilities along with it and they gave the holder of their burden the right to go ahead and conduct the war upon a national instead of a party basis.

This newspaper has felt from the first that soon or late Mr. Wilson would come to the point where he would be compelled to do this. He cannot expect war to work a business revolution in the country, without its having some strong reaction upon our political system. He knows enough about major politics and the temper of the American people not attempt to hold to the rigid government formula and practice while the rest of the world is changing, and it confidently may be expected that he will make them yield enough to avoid the possibility of permanent fundamental change.

The question is, when will he act? The leaders of his party have unexpectedly opened wide the way. Will he take advantage of the opportunity or will he hold on to party regularity until his hand, too, is virtually forced? The after the war relations of the two old parties may depend largely upon what he does within the next few days.

TEXT BOOK CHANGES.

"WE are indeed forlorn" says the plaintive and smile provoking official statement of the Text Book Commission. The sad state of the commissioners brings to mind a remark by an American editor, made during the stirring days when Germany was tearing up "scraps of paper" and shooting decrepit Belgian hostages because other Belgian citizens were not showing the proper amount of abnegation before the military might of the German empire. "This," said the editor, referring to Germany, "is the country where they study psychology most and understand human nature least."

It is the same with the commissioners. Some of them might be expected to pass a creditable examination in psychology, the science or near science, but they did not know enough about what was going on in the West Virginia mind to avoid kicking up a dickens of a row. And even after it had started, but there was yet time in which it might at least have been mitigated, they were incapable of doing the right thing.

But after all the obtuseness of the commissioners is as nothing compared with that of their friends the book agents. As the writer of the Commission's statement truthfully observes school book changes are always accompanied by

some sort of storm. One would think that men who make their living—more or less honest—by marketing school books would seek to overcome this tendency. But instead we have the very opposite. The people who have money invested in school book publishing ought to give the methods of their representatives in the field a rigid scrutiny. If school book agents find it impossible to be good they ought for the comfort of the people who do business with them, at least be discrete.

CROSSING THE STREET.

MAYOR BOWEN should have the hearty cooperation of the entire population of the city, not only upon his plan to get people to cross Main street between prescribed lines, plainly indicated on the pavement, but upon every other reasonable project which he may advance for the protection of life and limb.

This is no longer a village. It is a city in which the traffic problems are peculiar to begin with, and in which the volume of traffic growing rapidly. Because of the topographical reasons Main street carries more traffic than it otherwise would in a city Fairmont's size. That is the controlling factor here and the sooner the people begin to realize it and act upon the knowledge the better it will be for all concerned.

Mayor Bowen's plan is a step in the right direction, but the success of it will depend a whole lot upon the way in which the citizens individually act with regard to it. In some cities where it is now accepted as a matter of course, it appealed to the sense of humor of the people more than it did to their horse sense at first and they were inclined to make fun of it until traffic cops and stern police magistrates took all the fun out of the joke by the "ten dollars or ten days" route.

Mayor Bowen, of course, will not have a lot of traffic policemen to help him make the people accept his innovation but if those who like to think of themselves as leading citizens will take the trouble to do the right thing the rest will soon follow. It was Emerson, if we are not mistaken, who defined a good citizen as a man who steps to the curb on a dark night to exhortation. If it was not Emerson the definition is incisive enough and true enough to be worthy of that great man.

The delay in making the draft is giving the Washington correspondents an opportunity to work over some of their old stuff, but there was one glimmer of freshness between the lines of the dispatches last night and that was that nothing has been determined about what will be done with guard regiments already in the federal service who are doing guard duty. It is quite possible that we will have the First regiment with us for some time to come.

The indignant East side citizens are going to petition the Board of Affairs to revoke the Billy May license. Well, the committee will be charmed by the cordiality and courtesy with which it will be received.

It took the jury which tried the conspiracy case 23 hours to determine that the defendants were not guilty, but public opinion had acquitted them long before the trial ended. The government attorneys spoiled what little case they might have had through their lack of knowledge of the practical side of the coal business.

If the Kaiser has any influence left in Berlin he had better put a stop to the justly celebrated Crisis so that all hands can have their minds free to pay attention to the new situation in the East.

There should be a large turnout at tonight's meeting of automobilists at the court house. The City government is now in a mood to cooperate in an effective manner with the owners of cars in any sincere effort to bring about better traffic conditions and the logical first step is for the automobilists to talk the matter over and make practical suggestions. If they do not do that there is danger that in the final adjustment of the traffic situation their legitimate rights will be ignored.

The interest created by the athletic meets at the playgrounds is most encouraging. Superintendent Moore is doing for the playgrounds pretty much the same thing he did for athletics at the High school—putting them on a sound basis where they will commend themselves to popular approval.

Governor Cornwell is not neglecting any of the dramatic possibilities of the textbook situation.

SHORT AND SNAPPY

However, no one has predicted that the coming generation would rather do its own fighting than pay interest bills.—Clarksburg Exponent.

It will be a great day when we write it "ex-Kaiser Wilhelm"—and a better day for Germany as well.—Charleston Leader.

The distinction between soft coal and hard coal is this: Soft coal is hard to get, but hard coal is harder.—Clarksburg Exponent.

The food bill gives promise of only being a half-measure if congress don't get it passed before all the crops are harvested.—Wheeling Register.

The government will avoid a lot of future trouble if it clamps the price regulation lid onto every article of home consumption. The farmer, the manufacturer and the laborer should be guaranteed a reasonable and just price for his toil, the consumer should be amply protected against gouging, and the speculator and price booster should be kicked to hades, where he belongs.—St. Albans Herald.

If there is any politics alive at the present time it is because the administration insists on strict partisan action in everything.—Weston Free Press.

Meanwhile let those who have always been industrious put a little more energy in their work. Then we will all be doing our bit.—Marlington Journal.

When Uncle Sam asked for subscriptions to two billion dollars of Liberty bonds, the people responded by offering \$3,035,226,850.00. Which goes to show that we have some confidence in ourselves.—St. Mary's Oracle.

So, after Lemberg Przemyśl again. While the Russians are about the job of remarking that section of the world they might do a whole lot toward reforming the names of towns.

"Business men want to know where they stand."—Headline.

Judging by the revenue legislation and the price fixing schemes they stand to lose.

They can't blame the delay in the draft on West Virginia.

The Mountain state has not been very conspicuous in talking about war but it has been there with the goods at every stage so far and that is the kind of spirit that wins wars.

Notice the postoffice to be given.

more clerks.

Good work, but a postoffice that is really striving to please would provide more space for people to write.

More desk room, Mr. Manley, more desk room!

The writer of the East-side resolutions certainly did his damndest not to hurt any one's feelings.

The right of petition is very ancient and very much venerated, but petitions as such do not cut much ice in the inner councils of a municipal government dominated by a gang.

However, unless Billy May is getting that "three story brick building" at a great bargain the chances are that he is making a bad investment.

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT THE TEXT BOOK CHANGE COSTS.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., July 13.—[Editor The West Virginian]—While the writer was speaking before the School Book Commission on July 10th, he was asked repeatedly by Prof. Armstrong, a member of the Commission, whether or not he knew that the additional cost of school books on account of the proposed changes would only be 2 per cent to each scholar, and that the total expense to the people because of said changes would amount to only \$25,000. I feel that this statement should not be left unchallenged.

Realizing that 80 per cent of the books have been changed and that the exchange value is only 50 per cent, I could readily see that Mr. Armstrong's figures were so low as to be ridiculous. However, admitting his statement to be true, which I deny, there are many additional items of expense connected with a change in school books, which greatly add to Mr. Armstrong's figures:

Thousands of children will go to school with the old books. Delay in organization of the school and crippling of efficiency for the first weeks of the term will be occasioned by the necessity of securing new books. Suppose the loss per school room is only \$150 on account of this delay, we would lose in dollars and cents, \$12,000.

There are 225,000 school children ready to begin the fall term. It is certainly safe to say that an average of one trip for every three children must be made to a bookstore because of the change of books. This is extremely conservative. These trips will vary from a short walk to 10 or 12 miles. We then have the School Book Commission causing 75,000 heads of families to take half a day each from their corn cutting or husking, in order that John and Mary may start promptly with their children. Figuring this valuable time at \$1.00 each, we have a loss of \$75,000.

School superintendents, teachers and school boards must go to great expense to notify the public of the proposed changes. The actual expense of this publicity will certainly amount to two or three dollars per school, but let us be conservative and place it at slightly more than one, or \$10,000.

Teachers on the average draw very low wages. This is especially true of the teacher of the country schools. Each teacher must have a full set of the books used in her school, and in the rural school this is quite a library, running from the little primer to the books on grammar, history and civil government. At a very low estimate the \$300 teachers would be obliged to spend \$5 apiece for books, even after exchanging the old ones on hand. This makes \$40,000. Here the expense falls most heavily on the teacher who is poorest paid. A teacher in a rural school with eight grades, who receives \$40 per month, must spend in many cases nearly half her first month's salary for this absolutely necessary equipment.

Let us assemble the figures:
Mr. Armstrong's 2c. \$25,000
Loss of efficiency 12,000
Loss of parents' time 75,000

Cost of publicity 10,000
Teachers' equipment 40,000

Total \$152,000

This is only the beginning. Many other items of actual cost will come in and will swell these figures to \$300,000 or more. The confusion, the poor teaching incident to the use of new, untried, unfamiliar, and to the best of my information, greatly inferior books are not easily reduced to dollars and cents, but they represent a very substantial loss, which is hard to over-estimate.

The School Book Commission is requiring us to trade back a good, serviceable article, all wool and a yard wide, for a piece of shoddy goods, and is making us pay the school book companies 50 per cent to boot. We are not only out our money, but we have poorer goods than before the exchange.

This is a period for economy, for a lean garbage can, for a clean dinner plate, for the wearing of the clothes we laid away last year. Many of our citizens will be forced to those measures, others are adopting them for patriotic reasons.

Many entire schools could get along very well this year with the identical books used last term. The places of those graduating at the end of the term will be taken, in effect, by the young pupils coming for the first time. The equipment of the school, which is the books, can be used again. The School Book Commission tells us, however, that 80 per cent of this equipment must be scrapped for 50 per cent of its cost, and new equipment bought. If a man is buying books for a family of five just let him figure on Mr. Armstrong's 2c per pupil, and see whether he can replace the sum of one dime the good books which Mr. Armstrong and his associates have thrown into the scrap heap.

This is not a mere trifle, as Mr. Armstrong's figures would lead us to believe, but a tremendous loss for the present year, amounting in good hard dollars and cents to probably \$300,000.

J. S. DARST,
State Auditor.

Editorial Comment

on Current Subjects

GOOD WORK OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Those eminent representatives in Congress who want to drive the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense out of existence will do well to ponder the statement of Mr. Willard printed in The Sun yesterday. If they do not, the American people will.

The Special committee on National Defense of the American Railway Association, which is the organization wherethrough all the railroads of the country are working as one system during the war, is to all intents and purposes a part of the Council of National Defense. It works in co-operation with Mr. Willard, who is chairman of the transportation and communication section of the Advisory Commission.

This so-called Railroads' War Board has accomplished results that border on the marvelous. By making repairs quicker, by heavier loading, by quicker movement and other improvements in

operation it handled an increased traffic in April, 1917, over the same month of the previous year that was equivalent to the addition of 135,000 cars to the equipment of the railroads concerned. The increase in ton mileage in April was equivalent to the addition of 55,000 miles of railroad to the roads of the United States, an amount exceeding the total mileage of the railroads of Great Britain and nearly equaling the total mileage of the railroads of Germany. One railroad in the month of April hauled 292 tons more per car than in April of last year, thus having on this one road the use of 58,000 cars. The shortage of freight cars in the United States was reduced during the month of May from 148,000 to 105,000 cars. The principal coal-carrying roads in May of this year hauled 142,000 more carloads of bituminous coal—about 7,000,000 tons—than they did in May, 1916. The daily average of cars loaded with bituminous coal increased 23.8 per cent over that of a year ago and 8.1 per cent over that of the preceding month. A complete scheme of co-operation with the government has been worked out, so that preference has been given to the movement of government coal and ores and materials for munition and other government manufacture and to the movement of government troops.

These figures may mean little to the average reader, but the point in which he is interested is that through the co-operation of the railroads and the Council of National Defense the business of transportation is better handled in this country today than it ever was before—it is handled better than it could be under any other conceivable arrangement—and that this transportation efficiency is a vital factor in the effective prosecution of the war. The man who would undo the work that has been done, or interfere with it, may be theoretically a patriotic American, but practically he is an ally of Germany.

What the railroad end of the Defense Council is doing in the matter of transportation is being done by other divisions in the matters of munitions and supplies and medicine and other things. To abolish the Council would be to abolish the most effective of all the non-military agencies used to carry on the work of the war. Little wonder, then, that President Wilson protested so strongly against the proposition when it was incorporated in an amendment to the Food Control bill.

Comparative Culpability.

"So you think it's wrong to fight?" "Yes. But it's even worse to let somebody start a fight and not try to make him sorry for it."—Washington Star.

Lemons Beautify! Make Quarter Pint of Lotion, Cheap

Here is told how to prepare an inexpensive lemon lotion which can be used to bring back to any skin the sweet freshness, softness, whiteness and beauty.

The juice of two fresh lemons strained into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white makes a whole quarter pint of the most remarkable lemon skin beautifier at about the cost one must pay for a small jar of the ordinary cold creams. Care should be taken to strain the lemon juice through a fine cloth so no lemon pulp gets in, then this lotion will keep fresh for months. Every woman knows that lemon juice is used to bleach and remove such blemishes as freckles, sallowness and tan, and is the ideal skin softener, smoothen and beautifier.

Just try it! Get three ounces of orchard white at any pharmacy and two lemons from the grocer and make up a quarter pint of this sweetly fragrant lemon lotion and massage it daily into the face, neck, arms and hands, and see for yourself.

First Aids

Plasters, bandages, adhesives, and absorbent cotton. These are things that no home should be without. Are you supplied? A little outfit costs a trifle, and keeps little hurts from growing big.

CRANE'S Drug Store

Baby Night at the Miller Playgrounds

"Baby Night" will be observed at the Miller playgrounds this evening when a special program designed for the entertainment of the babies and their parents will be carried out under the direction of Miss Caroline Barnes. The program will consist of sand construction such as moulding castles, building cities, etc. Mothers are urged to be present and to bring the babies.

A special story telling program will be given at the Tenth street ground on Saturday evening beginning at

16-DAY SEASHORE VACATION EXCURSIONS

THURSDAYS

July 19

August 2, 16 and 30

\$10 TO Atlantic City, Cape May
Wildwood, Anglesea, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Avalon, Stone Harbor, N. J., Rehoboth, Del., and Ocean City, Md.

\$12 TO Asbury Park, Long Branch
Ocean Grove, Belmar, Spring Lake, Sea Girt, Deal Beach, Point Pleasant and Bay Head.

FROM FAIRMONT

Tickets at above fares good only in coaches. Tickets good in Parlor or Sleeping Cars \$2.00 extra in addition to regular Pullman charge.

Tickets good for passage on Special Train or on trains leaving Pittsburgh 2:44 A. M., 7:05 A. M., 4:55 P. M., 7:10 P. M., 8:30 P. M., (coaches only) 8:50 P. M., (sleeping cars only), 10:40 P. M., (sleeping cars only), and their connections.

STOP OVER AT PHILADELPHIA AND HARRISBURG RETURNING. MONONGAHELA RAILROAD IN CONNECTION WITH PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD



IT'S VACATION TIME

and we have the footwear you will need for sports—for the Boardwalk and Beach, for the country and mountains, for dress wear and sport wear everywhere.

For Men Oxfords in all leathers, also white duck \$2.50 to \$7.00.

For Women A wonderful line of white footwear in every wanted style—high and low. \$2.00 to \$7.00.

For the Kiddies "Keds"—barefoot sandals and play oxfords 70c to \$1.00.

BATHING SHOES AND OXFORDS 65c.

Shurtleff & Welton

RUFF STUFF

In a strictly dry town every one ought successfully to negotiate the Mayor's chalk lines at the crossings.

In big cities they are called jay lines.

Wrong again; the jinks who do not use them are the jays.

Young men who come scathless through a traffic law violation arrest because their offense is a little one, might well beware.

If there are human cops will lay to catch them in a big one the next time.